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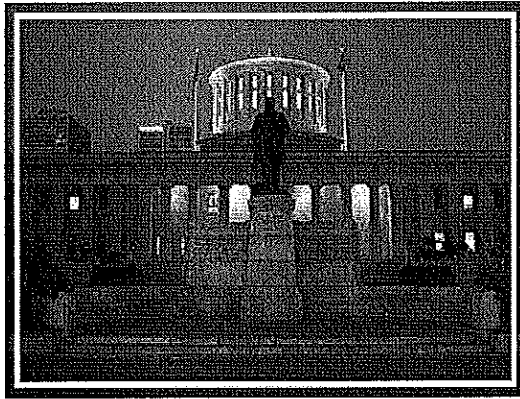


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(614) 644-6011

www.ohiohouse.gov/steven-arndt

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Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Slack, Cora; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Crock, Sarah
CC: Turk, Ellen
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From: Steve Arndt [<mailto:Rep89@ohiohouse.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 4:06 PM
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Subject: Honoring Our Local Heroes

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DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

STEVE ARNDT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Honoring Our Local Heroes

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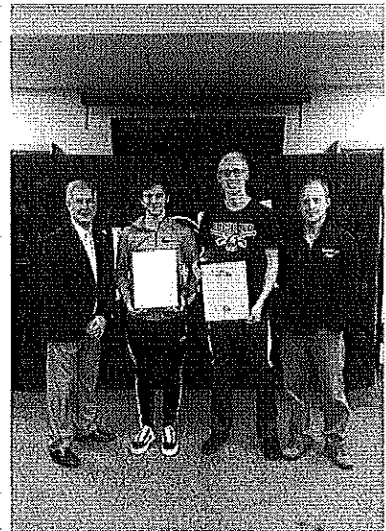
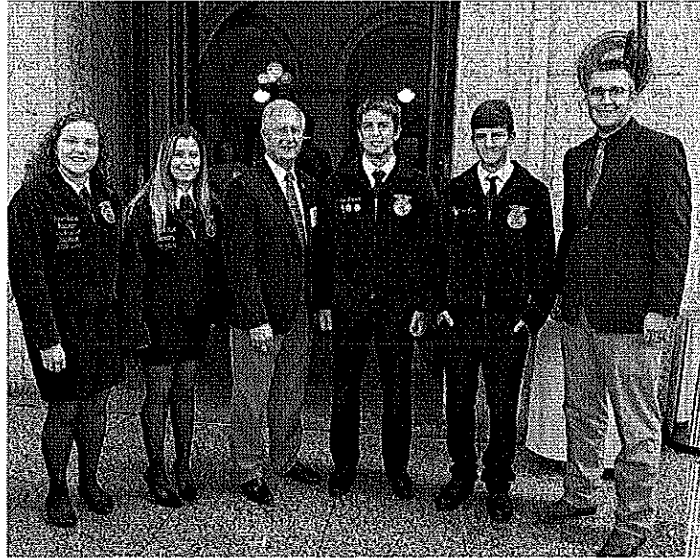
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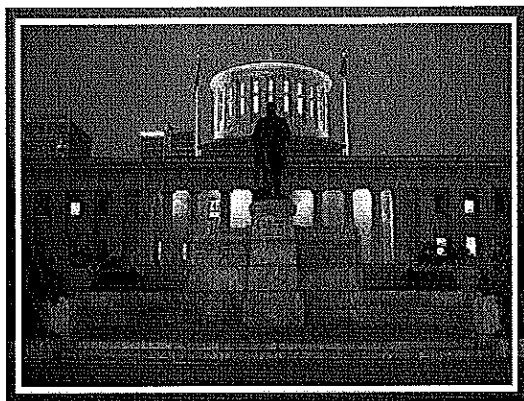


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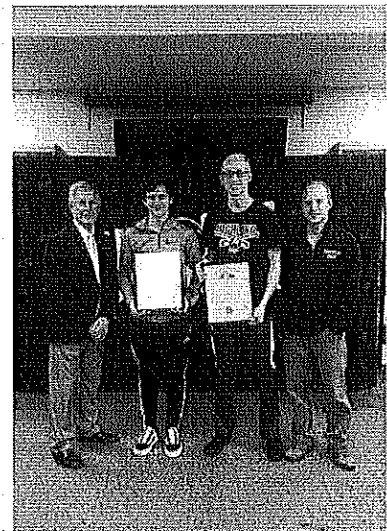
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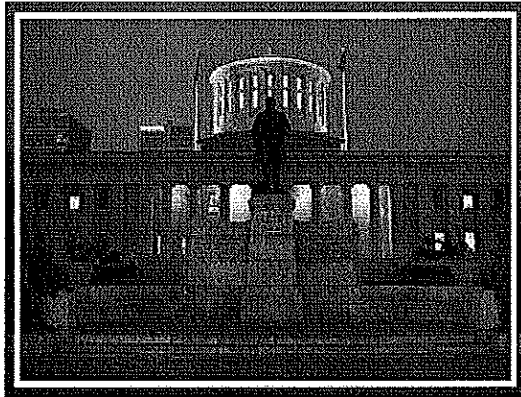
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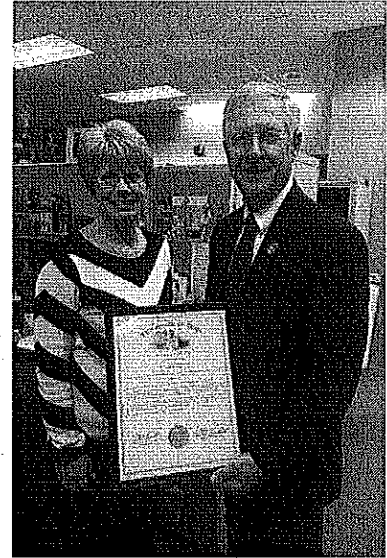
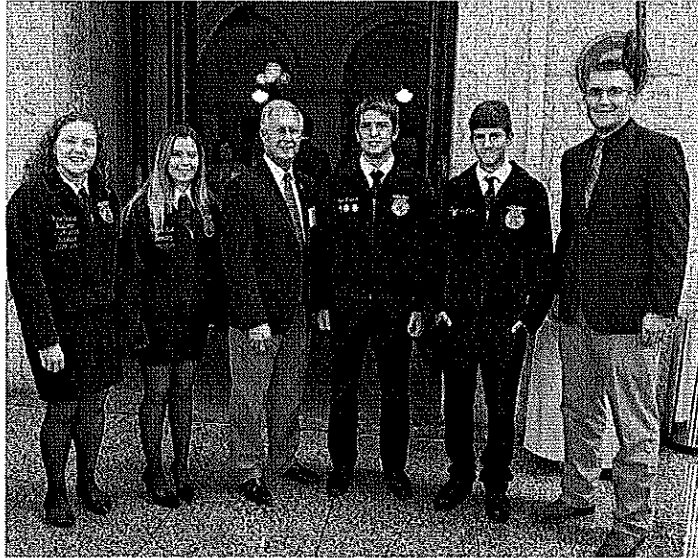
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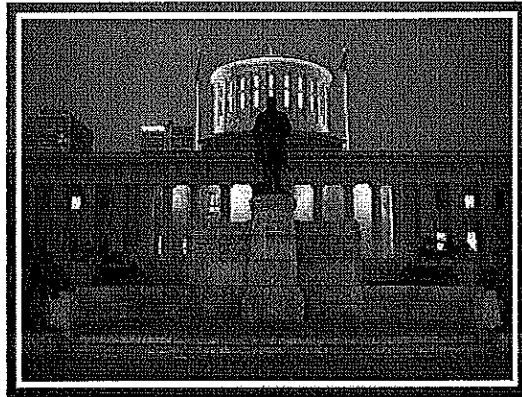
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Yes, Margaretta. The Polar Bears!

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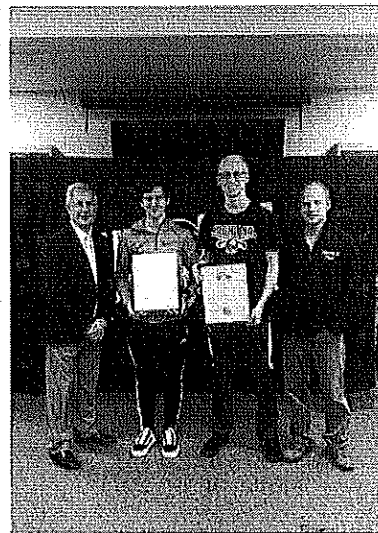
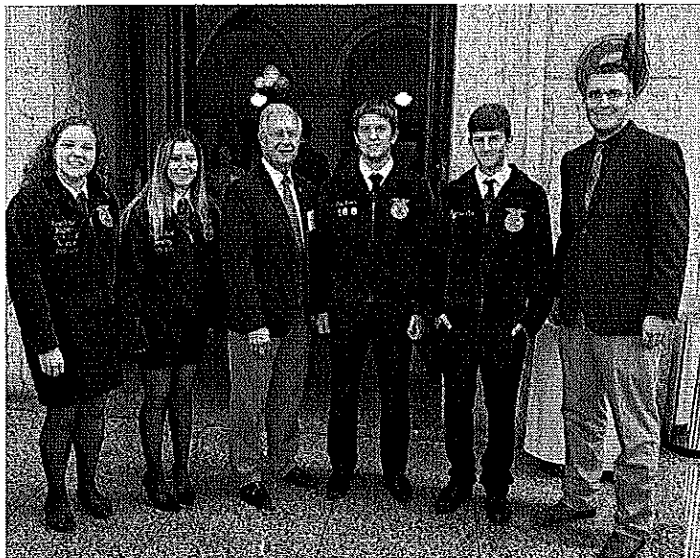
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Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 9:11 AM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: cap letter

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Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer



Rotunda Rumblings

Talk of the town(ship): State rules for townships in Ohio would change in a number of ways under new House Bill 500, from Republican Rep. Rick Carfagna. The measure is a grab-bag of changes that various townships around the state are seeking, according to Carfagna (a former township trustee). The bill would, among other things, require boards of township trustees to elect a chair every year, allow townships to impose a tax of up to 5 percent on cover charges for performances and on the price of scalped tickets beyond the face-value cost, allow townships to tax beyond Ohio's "10-mill limitation" for up to a decade for road and infrastructure projects, and no longer require township zoning commissions to submit zoning plans to county or regional planning commissions for approval.

Double-check: New legislation from state Sen. (and Republican secretary

of state candidate) Frank LaRose would require every county board of elections to conduct a "risk-limiting audit" of at least three races or ballot issues after general and special elections. Under Senate Bill 256, bipartisan teams of elections officials would hand count randomly sampled ballots from the selected races to ensure the initial election result is correct.

'Pragmatic conservative': That's how Gov. John Kasich now labels himself when it comes to the gun debate. As reported Sunday by Capitol Letter's Laura Hancock, a pro-gun section of Kasich's political website was scrubbed Sunday after Kasich appeared on CNN and advocated for "reasonable" gun control measures. By Monday, as Ohio Public Radio/TV Statehouse bureau chief Karen Kasler noted on Twitter, JohnKasich.com had a new section called "Common sense on the Second Amendment."

Taylor returns fire: Kasich's lieutenant governor and frenemy-in-chief Mary Taylor took a shot at her one-time political partner over the gun issue. "All too often in the aftermath of these tragic events, there is [a] knee-jerk reaction to attack the 2nd Amendment rights of our citizens rather than to address the root causes, which often center around mental illness," Taylor, a GOP gubernatorial candidate, said in a statement Monday. "Restricting the rights of law abiding Ohioans to legally purchase a gun does not do that. Neither does removing your prior support for pro-2nd Amendment legislation from a website."

School project: Attorney general and GOP gubernatorial frontrunner Mike DeWine also doesn't favor additional gun-control measures as a result of the Florida high-school shooting, according to a spokesman. But DeWine's campaign on Monday released a plan to protect schools from violent attacks. If elected, DeWine would seek to ensure there is a licensed mental-health professional in every Ohio school (his spokesman said it's unclear how much that would cost or how to pay for it). In addition, the AG would direct Ohio's Strategic Analysis and Information Center (set up after 9/11 to prevent terrorist attacks) to monitor social media for threats to attack schools. Finally, DeWine would seek to ensure that Ohio court records are made available to the state (and, therefore, federal) law-enforcement database, so a criminal conviction wouldn't be overlooked during a background check to buy a gun.

It would be 'great': We know that Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown have found some common ground on the issue of trade. Now Brown, following up on a meeting at the White House last week with Trump and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, has extended an invitation. "I invite you to come to Ohio and tour a steel mill with me," reads a letter from Brown to Trump. Who knows how the gesture (some might call it a stunt) will be received, but Brown certainly spoke Trump's language. He praised Trump's recent action protecting domestic washing machine manufacturers, called American workers "the best in the world," and concluded by telling the president: "I hope we can plan this great event together."

Venturing out: Democratic U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan says he plans to take a delegation of venture capitalists on "tour of heartland cities to learn what it will take to get more investment flowing to companies in these cities." The tour will begin Wednesday with stops in Youngstown and Akron, then head west to Michigan and Indiana.

Health issue: The pro-Obamacare group Save My Care is airing a new 30-second ad in Cincinnati this week (as well as online statewide) encouraging Ohioans to call on Congress to "stop the partisan war on health care." The ad, titled "Enough is Enough," is part of a national ad buy by the group, according to spokeswoman Amanda Wurst.

Everyone's a winner: The Republican Party of Cuyahoga County on Sunday endorsed both GOP candidates in Ohio House District 6: Michael Canty and Jim Trakas. Canty and Trakas had each called for a joint endorsement, saying they want to minimize GOP infighting so the district (held by term-limited Republican Rep. Marlene Anielski) doesn't fall into Democratic hands.

Stories We're Talking About

More on guns and the governor's race: Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dennis Kucinich on Monday launched a push for a statewide ban on AR-15 style semiautomatic weapons, cleveland.com's Mark Naymik reports. Kucinich, who held at a rally in Cleveland with his running mate,

Akron Councilwoman Tara Samples, wants communities to pass resolutions urging the state legislature to act. But as Naymik notes, the General Assembly is "dominated by Republican gun-rights advocates who have passed numerous laws loosening gun restrictions."

Presidents among us? Well, their namesakes, anyway. For some Presidents Day fun, cleveland.com's data expert Rich Exner searched the records of Ohio's nearly 8 million registered voters to see if he could find any names matching the eight presidents with ties to our state. And for good measure, he looked for any Donald Trumps.

More Presidents Day fun: Although Rutherford B. Hayes didn't show up on the current Ohio voter rolls, he did appear at the top of another list: He was found by a new study to be the nation's healthiest president, cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton reports. Trump, whose doctor recently declared him "the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency," rated number 26.

ICYMI: Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor says she would vote for rival Mike DeWine over a Democrat in the governor's race. But she doesn't think it'll come to that, because she plans to win the Republican nomination. Taylor talked about the campaign, her upbringing and lots more in the latest episode of Ohio Matters, cleveland.com's politics podcast. You can check out all the episodes here.

Not an oxymoron: The Columbus Dispatch's Marion Renault has a story on "conservative conservationists," featuring Republican Sarah Spence, government affairs director for the Ohio Environmental Council.

Full Disclosure

Five things we learned from Tiffin Republican Rep. Bill Reineke's June 9 ethics disclosure.

1. He was nearly a month late turning in the form, which was due May 15.
2. He earned \$100,000 or more at Tiffin Ford-Lincoln Inc, of which he was president, and at least \$100,000 at Reineke Ford Lincoln. Ford Motor Co.

paid him \$25,000 to \$49,999. He was involved in 20 business entities in 2016. As a legislator, he earned \$63,917 that year.

3. He listed 47 investments in 2016, including stock in his own companies, a money market with Edward Jones, retirement with Nationwide, and stock with Citigroup, Apple, Alcoa and Cisco.

4. The state reimbursed him \$3,347.76 for mileage in 2016.

5. He received a \$125 ticket from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to its annual meeting and brunch from the Lake Erie Marine Trades Association worth \$19.

On the Move

Samantha Herd has been named chief of staff to Democratic lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton, according to a campaign release. Herd, a longtime Cincinnati resident, was political director on Sutton's gubernatorial campaign last year and served as Sutton's district director for her congressional office between 2011 and 2013.

What's Going On

10 a.m. – Ohio Ballot Board meeting: The board is set to consider approving language for the congressional redistricting ballot issue and determine whether a proposed Kidney Dialysis Patient Protection constitutional amendment contains only one proposed amendment. *Finance Hearing Room, Senate Building.*

10 a.m. – House Ways and Means Committee: The panel may amend and vote on House Bill 337, which would create a sales tax exemption for college textbooks. *Room 121, Ohio Statehouse.*

11 a.m. – Lawmakers to unveil bill to make fishing/hunting licenses cheaper: State Sens. Joe Uecker and Sean O'Brien, as well as state Reps. Jonathan Dever and Jack Cera, are slated to attend. *Harding Press Room, Room 109, Ohio Statehouse.*

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Rep. Wes Retherford fundraising luncheon:
Sponsor levels for the Hamilton Republican range from \$350 to \$1,000.
OHROC, 7th floor, 21 W. Broad St.

Noon – Black History Month performance: The 45-minute show will feature Anthony Gibbs performing "Fighting for Freedom: Ohio's Black Civil War Soldiers." *Atrium, Ohio Statehouse.*

1:30 p.m. – Senate session.

5 p.m. – Cordray, Sutton to rally with Lorain-area labor leaders:
Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray and running mate Betty Sutton are expected to speak out against "right to work" legislation in the Ohio House. *Laborers' Union Local 758 Hall, 2089 N. Ridge Rd., Lorain.*

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. – Women of POWER networking reception and fundraiser: Proceeds from the sold-out event benefit John Glenn College of Public Affairs non-partisan leadership programs that help Ohio women run for political office. *Capital Club, 41 S. High St.*

5:30 to 7 p.m. – Republican Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser:
Sponsor levels range from \$500 to \$2,500. *Suite 1650, 88 E. Broad St.*

Straight From The Source

"His slam dunk for justice is needed."

- The Rev. Jesse Jackson, defending LeBron James after Fox News commentator Laura Ingraham criticized the Cleveland Cavaliers star for his recent comments about social issues.

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What

could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

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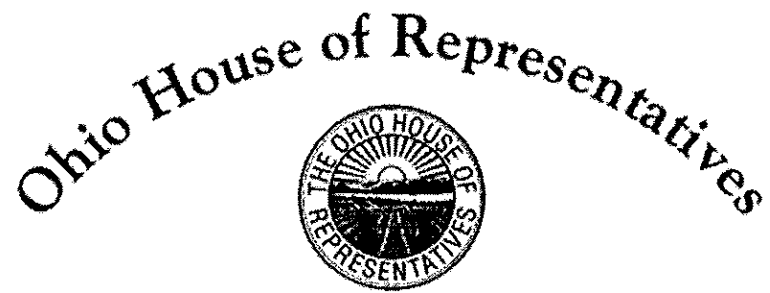
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From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:15 AM
To: House_All
Subject: FW: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

****REMINDER-DEADLINE TO CO SPONSOR IS MARCH 9, 2018 at 4PM**

Dominic Paretti
Legislative Aide to Representative Boyd
Ohio House District 09
614-644-5079

From: Paretti, Dominic
Sent: Monday, February 05, 2018 5:01 PM
To: House_All <House_All@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave



MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Janine Boyd and Representative Kristin Boggs
DATE: February 5, 2018
RE: Request for Co-Sponsorship – Paid Family and Medical Leave

We will soon introduce legislation to create the Ohio Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Today we chose to send this co-sponsor request as this date marks the 25th anniversary of FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). This legislation will provide 12 weeks of family and medical leave benefits, which will permit individuals to care for a family member, bond with a new child, or address their own serious health condition.

Out of 178 countries worldwide, the United States is one of three that does not provide paid leave to new mothers. So far five states—California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island offer some sort of paid leave to men and women who provide care. The federal Family Medical Leave Act provides 12 weeks of leave for family and medical reasons. This time is unpaid and employers with fewer than 50 employees are exempt, which eliminates a large segment of workers. Ohio should lead on the issue of paid leave to grow our economy and allow working people to put family first.

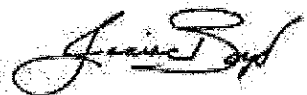
The program will be under the purview of the Department of Job and Family Services. An individual would receive leave insurance benefits for: a health condition which makes him/her unable to perform their job duties; caring for a new child during after birth, adoption, or foster care placement; caring for a child, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition; or the individual is taking any other leave as authorized by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. In order to be eligible for program benefits, an individual must file a claim with ODJFS; must have worked at least 680 hours during the base period; premiums have been withheld and remitted for at least one year; and the leave must be for the above-mentioned purposes.

Once established, program benefits will be paid by assessing premiums on employees. Employers will be required to deduct and withhold premiums from employee's wages. However, an employer may opt to pay the contributions on behalf of employees.

An employee who is covered by an employer policy or collective bargaining agreement that provides the employee with greater leave than that provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act may elect not to participate in the Program in accordance with rules adopted by the Director. An employee who elects to opt out of participating in the Program is not liable for any premium or contribution that would otherwise be due under the Program.

Working people in Ohio should not have to worry about losing their job or falling behind financially just to take care of a sick child or relative; address their own serious health condition; or care for and bond with their newborn child. Ohio cities like Dayton and Cincinnati are leading on leave. By allowing working people to put their family first, we can truly make Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Dominic Paretti, at 614-644-5079 or via email at Dominic.Paretti@OhioHouse.Gov and Serena Finlay, 614-466-1896 or via email at Serena.Finlay@OhioHouse.Gov. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Friday, March 9 at 4:00pm.**



Janine Boyd
State Representative, Ohio House District 09

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Boggs". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristin" and last name "Boggs" clearly legible.

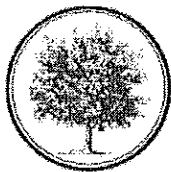
Kristin Boggs

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 12:49 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Testifies on the Negative Impacts of Tax Exemptions

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February 20, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute Testifies on the Negative Impacts of Tax Exemptions

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on House Bill 337

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee, highlighting the ways that tax credits and exemptions cost Ohio and Ohioans money, and how they complicate the state's tax code making it more difficult for taxpayers to fill-out their returns.

After outlining how the **Ohio Department of Taxation** defines a tax expenditure, Lawson stated Buckeye's long-held position on these types of exemptions saying, "The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends."

Citing research from the **Tax Foundation**, Lawson went on to highlight the particular problem exemptions place on counties located on Ohio's borders. "Adopting too many sales tax exceptions risks forcing some counties to raise their tax rates, which will in turn make them less competitive...and higher rates could prove an even greater competitive disadvantage for counties along our borders."

###

**Interested Party Testimony on House Bill 337
Before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
February 20, 2018**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 337 and Ohio's tax policy.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus that advocates for low-tax, low-regulation policies that remove barriers to prosperity for Ohioans.

According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, a tax expenditure is any tax policy that has the following four characteristics:[1]

- The item reduces, or has the potential to reduce, one of the state's General Revenue Fund taxes;
- The item would have been part of the defined base;
- The item is not subject to an alternative tax; and
- The item is subject to change by state legislative action.

The Buckeye Institute has long opposed most tax expenditures, including credits and exemptions, because of their adverse impacts on taxpayers and the level playing field on which a free market depends.

As exceptions to the tax code, tax expenditures effectively narrow the tax base. The narrower the tax base the higher and more confiscatory taxes become for those still subject

to the tax. Thus, tax expenditures, however unintentionally or well-intended, eventually pick economic winners and losers through their preferential treatment under the law.

Flatter taxes, by contrast, levied on broader bases and without special exemptions, lower the tax burden and spread the cost of the tax more evenly and fairly among taxpayers.

Additionally, adopting too many sales tax exceptions risks forcing some counties to raise their tax rates, which will in turn make them less competitive. According to the Tax Foundation, Ohio already has the highest average combined state and local sales tax rate among its neighbors, and higher rates could prove an even greater competitive disadvantage for counties along our borders.[2]

Tax policies that may put more of our counties at a greater disadvantage is not sound tax policy for Ohio.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have at this time.

[1] State of Ohio, **Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Tax Expenditure Report**, Office of Budget and Management, November 25, 2016.

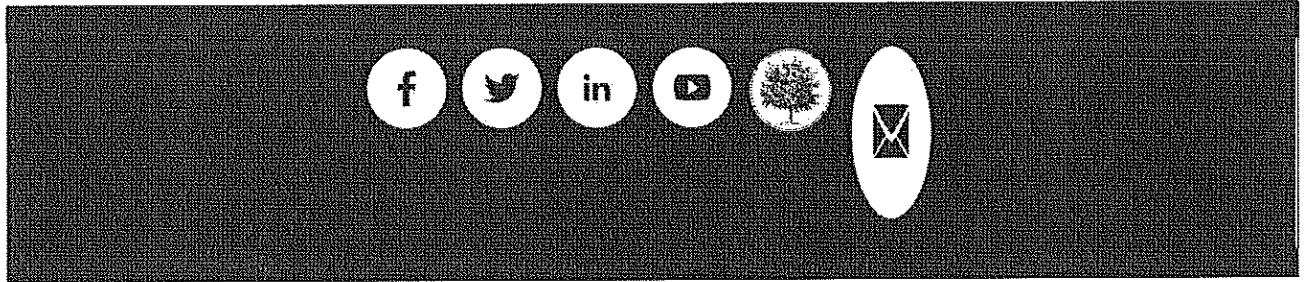
[2] Jared Walczak and Scott Drenkard, **State and Local Sales Tax Rates 2018**, The Tax Foundation, February 2018.

#

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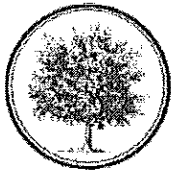
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February 20, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute's Rea Hederman Praises Initial Steps in Waiver Process, Says More Needs to be Done

Columbus, OH -- On Friday, the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Department of Medicaid kicked-off the public comment period for two Medicaid waivers that will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Rea S. Hederman Jr., who is executive director of the Economic Research Center at **The Buckeye Institute**, vice president of policy, and a nationally recognized expert on health care policy, and the author of *Returning Health Care Power to the States: The Affordable Care Act's Section 1332 Waiver for State Innovation*, issued the following statement.

"Last week, the state of Ohio took the initial step towards improving health care for Ohioans, ensuring that Medicaid is available to the neediest and is sustainable for future generations.

"In requesting a waiver that will include a work or community engagement requirement for healthy adults, Ohio will bring its Medicaid program in-line with other federal-state welfare programs that **already require beneficiaries to work** or engage in work-related activities. The new waiver signals that healthy adults need to work, volunteer, or attend school in order to receive their Medicaid benefits. This is a good step forward, but more reforms are needed such as cost sharing provisions like premiums, health savings accounts, a limitation on retroactive eligibility, and other tools that prepare and help Medicaid recipients transition to private health care coverage.

"Many of these policies are contained in the Healthy Ohio program that the General Assembly has long sought but was vetoed in the last budget. While the Ohio House of Representatives has overridden that veto, the Senate must still act in order to move the program forward.

"The second waiver follows through on an **idea that was initially developed and championed by The Buckeye Institute**, which is using a 1332 state innovation waiver to exempt Ohio from the individual mandate. This innovation waiver should be easily approved by the federal government, since the current mandate penalty has been eliminated by Congress. Through this waiver, Ohioans will be protected from the individual mandate tax for the next five years, even if Congress reinstates the mandate penalty. Like the Medicaid waiver, this innovation waiver is only one step on the road to a better health care system.

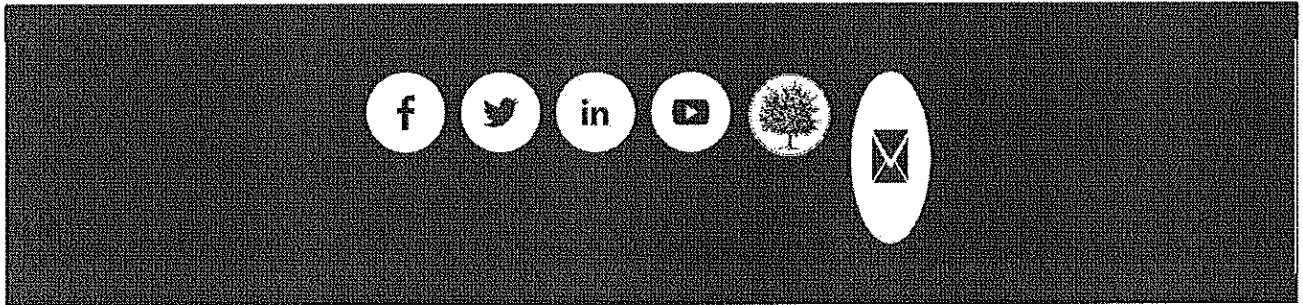
"Over the past year, the Trump Administration has promised flexibility in working with the states, and they have started to deliver. It is smart policy for Ohio to seize this opportunity but more is needed to fix both Medicaid and the insurance markets and ensure they work for Ohioans."

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Montgomery County Provides More Evidence that Ohio Needs Bail Reform

By Daniel J. Dew
February 21, 2018

Ohio's cash bail system remains broken. Just ask **Markcus Brown**, the man locked-up for nine days because he did not meet the RTA's dress code and he could not afford bail after his arrest for "trespassing" at the bus station. Mr. Brown's case is another stark reminder that the cash bail status quo does a remarkably poor job of determining which defendants should be released before trial and which should wait in jail.

Aware of the bail system's shortcomings, the Montgomery County Commissioners recently **studied the bail practices** of the county's Court of Common Pleas and its municipal courts. The study found that from 2014 to 2017, defendants in the Montgomery County municipal courts on supervised release appeared for court 20 percent more often than those out on cash bail. Similarly, in the county's Court of Common Pleas, defendants released using cash bail were nearly twice as likely to skip

court as those released without any financial conditions, and defendants released with supervision performed comparably to those out on bail.

The Montgomery County study provides more compelling evidence that cash bail has little-if any-real correlation to defendants appearing for their court dates. Instead, the study found that even though bail did not improve court appearance rates, the Court of Common Pleas had an overall appearance rate 26 percent higher due in part to its use of the **Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)**.

The ORAS gives judges additional information about pre-trial defendants, helping them make a more accurate assessment of each defendant's flight-risk and the potential threat that he or she poses to the community. Not surprisingly, after using the ORAS tools, the Montgomery Court of Common Pleas had a nearly 19 percent higher appearance rate for those released on bail, and a 42 percent higher appearance rate for those released on their own recognizance.

Unfortunately, Montgomery County municipal courts do not use risk-assessment tools and must instead rely on the limited information found in the case file or a ham-fisted bail schedule that crudely monetizes each alleged offense. Thus, municipal judges remain at a pre-trial disadvantage-and their communities and defendants continue to suffer for it.

The special interests in favor of preserving cash bail's faulty status quo contend that pre-trial risk-assessment tools are subjective and time-intensive-ignoring the tools used in places like Ohio's own Lucas County, for example, that have achieved better results using fewer than 10 objective data points such as prior failures to appear, convictions for violence, and age.

Lucas County courts have achieved remarkable results using the **Public Safety Assessment (PSA)** tool developed by the **Laura and John Arnold Foundation**. Since implementing the nine-factor assessment tool, crime in Lucas County committed by defendants awaiting trial has been cut in half and more defendants show-up for court, even as the number of defendants released without bail has doubled.

Montgomery County's careful study adds to the growing body of scientific evidence that risk-assessment tools work, while the traditional cash bail system does little to ensure a defendant's appearance for trial. The county commissioners were right to take a hard, honest look at the systems and tools that judges must rely on to decide who poses a

flight-risk, who may endanger the community, and who can be trusted to do no harm and return for trial. Cash alone cannot and does not accurately answer these questions.

Justice and public safety demand that Ohio and more of our local communities follow the examples of Montgomery and Lucas counties, and begin to give their judges the right kinds of tools for the job.

Daniel J. Dew is a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center and the author of "Money Bail": Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live.

###

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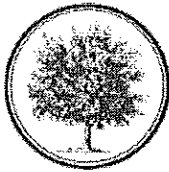
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February 22, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute's Greg Lawson: Court Ruling Allows Ohio Small Businesses to Focus on Growing and Creating Jobs

Columbus, OH - Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding Franklin County Judge David Cain's decision to uphold a provision in Ohio's budget that allows the state to collect municipal business-profit taxes from cities, counties, and villages.

"The **decision** by Franklin County Judge David Cain to uphold an Ohio law that allows businesses, that must file tax returns in multiple jurisdictions, to voluntarily consolidate their filings through the state is an important step in reforming our broken tax system.

"**The Buckeye Institute**, along with national organizations such as the **Tax Foundation**, have long called for Ohio to fix its byzantine municipal income-tax system, which is one of

the most complicated and unfair systems in the nation, and continues to be a significant obstacle to Ohio's economic growth.

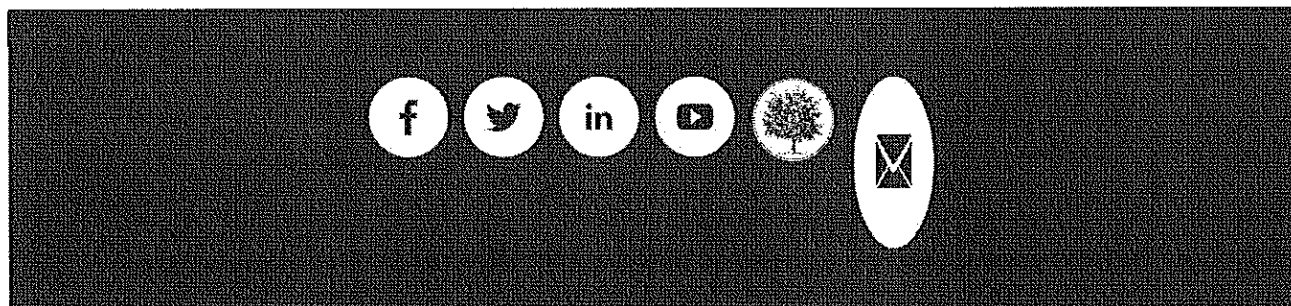
"The reform, passed in the most recent **biennial budget**, is a solid step towards fixing our tax code and it is disappointing that many local officials would rather sue the state than repair a system that harms Ohio's small business owners who don't have the money to hire high priced accountants.

"No doubt this won't be the end of the story as appeals will likely be filed. But today, Ohio businesses can breathe a little easier and focus on growing and creating jobs."

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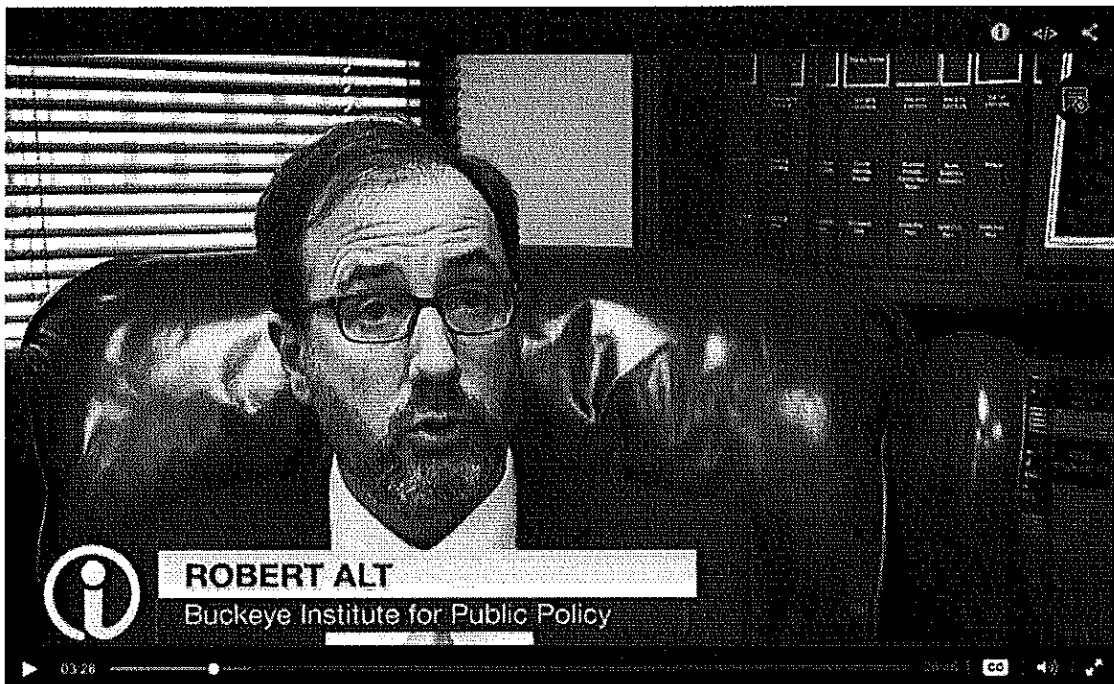
Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's Ashton Marra to Discuss Janus v. AFSCME

The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO Robert Alt, talked to **IdeaStream's** Ashton Marra about *Janus v. AFSCME* and the impact it could have on protecting the First Amendment rights of Ohio's public employees.

In the interview, Alt said in regards to public employees being forced to pay agency fees, "You don't have a choice then on how it is that the unions use that money in terms of speech, what they advocate for. That's really the core of this case."

Read and listen to the radio piece at: <http://bit.ly/2EMIE8e>.

Watch the television piece at: <http://bit.ly/2CGI1XH> (Segment runs from :56-6:27).



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2018

The Buckeye Institute's Robert Alt: Unions Should Rally Behind the First Amendment Rights of All Public Employees

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, issued the following statement regarding the Working People's Day of Action rally in Columbus, Ohio.

"Today we witnessed the First Amendment in action. Individuals who support unions joined together at a rally to freely express their opinions. But what if instead of rallying and voicing their own opinions, they were forced to pay for the speech of those who oppose unions or else they would be fired? That would be unfair, not to mention violate the First Amendment. Mark Janus and public employees in many states including Ohio face exactly that kind of predicament.

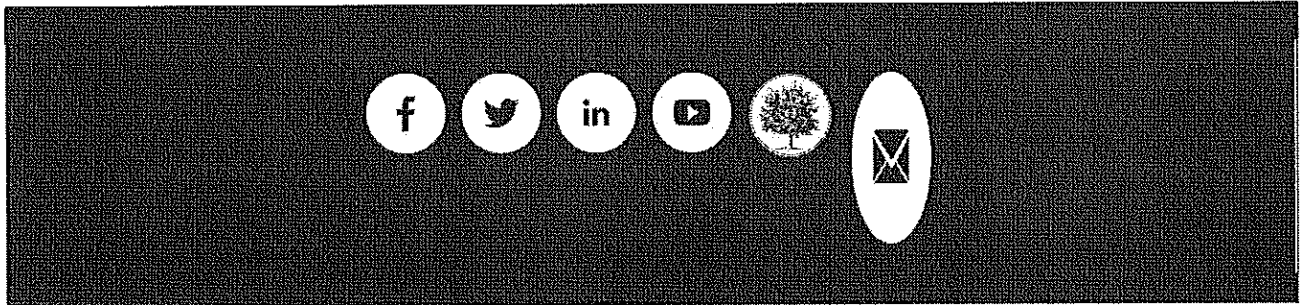
"On Monday, we will once again watch the robust protections of our constitutional system in action as Mr. Janus' case is heard before the Supreme Court of the United States. If Mr. Janus prevails, public employees will no longer be forced to pay for political speech with which they disagree, thus ending the violation of their First Amendment rights.

"While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 2/26/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS 2/26/2018



FUTURE UNCERTAIN AS OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD SITS IDLE

The future of Ohio's once-powerful higher education advisory board remains uncertain as lawmakers move to change the way the state oversees education.

OHIO MOVES TO ADD WRIGHT FLYER TO STATE SEAL AMID DISPUTE

Ohio is staking another public claim to the Wright brothers' legacy amid a dispute with Connecticut over an aviator that state says flew first.

GOP GOVERNOR TAPS ADVISERS FOR GUN POLICY TALKS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich says he has convened a diverse group of advisers on gun policy to help him come up with a consensus policy proposal that he can bring forward in the coming days.



MEDICAL MARIJUANA MAY ARRIVE LATE IN OHIO

From litigation to audits to legislation, the attempted fixes are piling up for an Ohio medical marijuana program that has been beset by problems.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR OHIO GOVERNOR HOPE TO WIN BACK TRUMP VOTERS

Getting Ohio Democrats who voted for President Donald Trump back into the fold was a theme Sunday as Democratic candidates for governor appeared before the public in Marysville.

KASICH FAVORS ARMING TEACHERS, AGAINST 'STAND YOUR GROUND'

Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he is hoping that a group he's quietly convened to find solutions to gun violence in the state will be able to deliver something by the end of next week to the General Assembly.

FRUSTRATED ACTIVIST BASHES KASICH, EYES RECREATIONAL WEED

An architect of Ohio's medical marijuana law Friday accused Gov. John Kasich of intentionally torpedoing the state's program, which is supposed to start in September.

UNION MONEY NOW FUELS GOP LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGNS IN OHIO

Ohio has increasingly become an island among states that have passed a right-to-work law — an initiative strongly opposed by labor unions.

NEARLY NEW LINEUP AT DEMOCRATS' NEXT OHIO GOVERNOR DEBATE IN TOLEDO

When four Democratic candidates for Ohio governor gathered for a debate in Columbus in October, they spent their time discussing Ohio's opioid crisis, the scandal surrounding online charter school ECOT, and the financial cost to local communities of state tax breaks for businesses.

KASICH ASSAILS DEMOCRATS FOR LACKING AGENDA

Launching a spirited attack against the Democratic Party, Ohio Gov. John Kasich charged he has "no clue" what Democrats stand for and complained they have "no agenda."

CAPITOL INSIDER: KASICH CHANGES HIS TUNE ON 'ASSAULT WEAPONS' VOTE

Ohio Gov. John Kasich's evolution on gun issues apparently continues.

EDITORIAL: DOING NOTHING IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE

Gun-rights advocates in the Ohio House of Representatives had every reason to expect House Bill 228 to pass easily, further dismantling the state's already-flimsy regulation of deadly weapons.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

ANTHEM BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ER POLICY CRITICIZED BY OHIO LAWMAKERS

Several Democratic state lawmakers want to penalize Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield for a new policy that does not cover some emergency room visits deemed by the insurer not to be emergencies.

THE PLAIN DEALER

KASICH, OTHER GOVERNORS RESTATE NATIONAL NEED TO DEAL WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS AND QUALITY

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and his counterparts from Colorado and Alaska came to the nation's capital Friday to remind policy makers, businesses and the public: There's still much work to do on health care.

'YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU GET PUNCHED, AT LEAST IT ONLY HURTS FOR A MINUTE' OHIO MATTERS: EPISODE 6 - JOE SCHIAVONI

State Sen. Joe Schiavoni acknowledges the Democratic gubernatorial primary has been a tough fight so far.

REPUBLICAN OHIO GOVERNOR CANDIDATES SUPPORT ARMING TEACHERS TO HELP PREVENT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Both Republican candidates for Ohio governor say they support arming teachers as part of an approach to prevent further school shootings.

STATE EMPLOYEES WITH CLAIMS PROCESSED BY ANTHEM NOT AFFECTED BY NEW ER RULE

State employees are not affected by a new Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield rule that leaves some policyholders with emergency-room bills when the company determines they didn't need emergency care.

OHIO RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA BALLOT MEASURE MIGHT NOT HAPPEN IN 2018, BACKER SAYS

Ohioans hoping to vote to legalize recreational marijuana this year will likely have to wait a little longer, perhaps as long as two years.

FACT CHECK: OHIO DEMOCRATS TAKE FRANK LAROSE'S REMARKS OUT OF CONTEXT

The Ohio Democratic Party on Friday circulated a 13-second audio recording of Republican Frank LaRose, a candidate for secretary of state, claiming that he was bragging about a Republican plan to gerrymander states across the country, including Ohio in 2011.

MARY TAYLOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF HAS NEW JOB WITH OHIO'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM

A longtime Kasich administration staffer has a new job advising Ohio's nascent medical marijuana program, but few details were available Friday about what he will do in the new role.

ROLL OF SHAME OF OHIO LAWMAKERS WHO OVERRODE GOP GOV. TAFT'S 2006 VETO, ENDING CITIES' BANS ON MASSACRE-CAPABLE WEAPONS: THOMAS SUDDER

Some Ohioans sincerely believe the Second Amendment trumps any attempt to regulate massacre-capable guns.

FIRSTENERGY CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO POCKET CORPORATE-TAX-CUT WINDFALL AND SHORT CUSTOMERS: EDITORIAL

The last time U.S. corporate tax rates were slashed, during the Reagan administration, some state utility regulators were slow off the mark in making sure investor-owned utilities didn't just pocket the profits without adjusting consumer bills, The New York Times reports.

THE ENQUIRER

THE NRA HAS A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THESE OHIO REPUBLICANS – AND DEMOCRATS.

The National Rifle Association has long supported Republicans around the country, and vice versa.

THE BLADE *One of America's Great Newspapers*

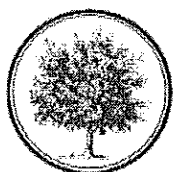
LITIGATION PROCEEDS OVER MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING

A lawsuit that could endanger the timeline for Ohio's rollout of its fledgling medical marijuana program will forge ahead despite proposed legislation to give the state a chance to correct licensing flaws.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:39 PM
To: Miller, Brad
Subject: ICYMI: In a piece for National Review Buckeye's Robert Alt looks the funding of Janus v. AFSCME

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In a piece for **National Review**, Buckeye's Robert Alt looks at the funding of *Janus v. AFSCME*, saying, "What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case."

NATIONAL REVIEW

The Money Behind *Janus*: It's Deja vu All Over Again

National Review
By Robert Alt
February 26, 2018

This morning, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. The case asks a similar question to one raised just two years ago in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* - namely whether forcing a public employee to choose between subsidizing a union's political speech or being subject to termination for failure to do so violates the First Amendment.

Coming so soon after *Friedrichs* - a case in which the Court deadlocked 4-4 after the tragic and untimely death of Justice Scalia - *Janus* has a déjà vu quality to it. The sense that we have seen all of this before is nowhere more palpable than in the public arguments marshaled by some of the more liberal elements of the media against Mark Janus's case.

Bereft of sufficient legal arguments to justify the First Amendment violations perpetuated against public servants, left-wing publications have resorted to attacking the messenger. Mark Janus, a child-support specialist for the state of Illinois, is accused of being an agent of big corporations and billionaires. The proof? The public-interest law firms that represent Mr. Janus - namely Liberty Justice Center and the National Right to Work Legal Foundation - are accused of taking donations from charitable foundations that support free-market policy.

Just as in *Friedrichs*, it is perfectly unsurprising that foundations and individuals voluntarily would give to non-profit, public-interest law firms that provide free representation to their clients. Indeed, public-interest firms on both the left and the right regularly rely on charitable donations to carry out their work.

What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case. Why would he pay for the lawyers arguing against him? Because he has no choice. Mark is required to pay agency fees to the union, which are used for chargeable expenses like litigation, or he can be fired. And, of course, he is required to pay for political collective bargaining speech, or he can be fired.

This is the real story of the money behind the *Janus* case-a story of forced contributions for political speech. But the story could have a happy ending. The Supreme Court will hear arguments today in a case that could vindicate the First Amendment rights of

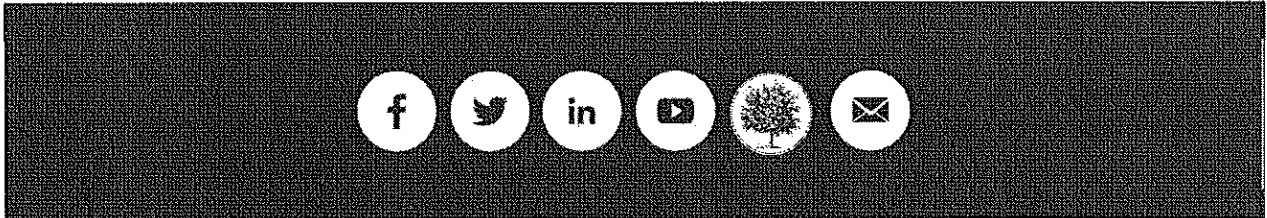
millions of Americans like Mark Janus. For Rebecca Friedrichs, for Mark Janus, and for all the workers who are being denied a voice and a choice, let's hope that the second time is the charm.

Robert Alt is the president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute.

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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